

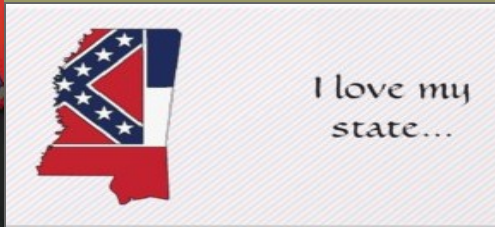


WELCOME TO THE JULY EDITION OF FAMILIES4GUARD

Volume 2, Issue 7



Major General Augustus L. Collins
The Adjutant General, State of Mississippi



Disaster Tips for
HURRICANE SEASON

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Tips for Building
June 2012

Family Emergency
Binder.

"BETTER THAN A
SHOEBOX"

HAPPY JULY 4th

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Major General Augustus L. (Leon) Collins is the Adjutant General of Mississippi and serves as the Commanding General of both the Mississippi Army and Air National Guard. He is responsible for providing the state of Mississippi and the United States of America with a ready force of more than 12,275 Citizen Soldiers and Airmen, equipped and trained to respond to any contingency, natural or manmade. General Collins directs the Mississippi Military Department and oversees the development and coordination of all policies, plans, and programs of the Mississippi National Guard in concert with the Governor and legislature of the State.

General Collins began his career when he enlisted in the Mississippi Army National Guard's Company B, 1st Battalion, 198th Armor Regiment in March 1977. He was commissioned in July 1980 upon completion of State Officer Candidate School.

Disaster Preparedness

Precautions for Natural Disasters

It is becoming quite evident that natural hazards incur massive damage. Some of this damage, however, can be avoided if the right preparedness measures are put in place.

The suddenness of natural hazards allows them to cause much damage. Adequate disaster preparedness, however, may assist in reducing the potential damage associated with these hazards.

A natural hazard is an unpredictable naturally occurring event, arising within the physical, climatic or biotic environment, that will have a negative effect on people or the environment. Natural hazards include hurricanes, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and floods. A natural hazard is classified as a disaster when it causes death, injury or major damage to property. Disaster preparedness is important in preventing the loss of lives and minimizing the damage to property during a natural disaster. It is therefore necessary to be knowledgeable of disaster preparedness measures.

Develop a Disaster Plan

In the preparation for any disaster, it is always important that a disaster plan be established. All family members should be fully aware of what they should do if a disaster strikes. Knowledge of near-by shelters, emergency numbers and contact information of near-by relatives is essential as there may be an emergency or it may become necessary to evacuate the area where they are to someplace safer or less threatened. Contact information of a relatives living a fair distance away from the threatened area would also be an asset in the event that the damage caused by the disaster is fatal.

Keep Important Items and Documents at Hand

Additionally, a Disaster Preparedness Kit should be packed. This should contain first aid items and batteries among other things. It is unwise to wait for a disaster warning or a disaster itself to pack such a kit as items may be scarce in local stores at that time or many items may be forgotten as a result of panic. It is always good to be well prepared.

Originals or copies of important documents such as passports, birth certificates and marriage certificates should always be at hand. These should not be left behind in an evacuated house but always carried on the person in the event that there is no return.

Remove Potential Hazards

Trees surrounding houses should be pruned regularly or even cut down if they are in positions where they may damage property if disturbed, for example, by wind or vibration. Everybody should also familiarize themselves with turning off the gas and electricity supply to their houses in the event that the gas or electricity becomes hazardous.

Keep Updated With the News

It is important not to be misled by propaganda and rumors. Trustworthy information related to natural disasters is always published on the news. Volcanic eruptions and hurricanes are always closely monitored by professionals who relay information to the media. Instructions and advice are also aired on the news as to how to keep safe during natural disasters.

Indeed, as world events continue to unfold themselves, the awareness of the importance of disaster preparedness is growing. It is important that all the necessary steps be taken in order to reduce the destruction which would have otherwise been done by natural disasters. Read more at:

[Suite101: Disaster Preparedness: Precautions For Natural Disasters |](#)

[Suite101.com http://suite101.com/article/disaster-preparedness-a195580#ixzz1zTzQdIPj](http://suite101.com/article/disaster-preparedness-a195580#ixzz1zTzQdIPj)



BETTER THAN A SHOEBOX

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IF YOU WOULD LIKE MORE INFORMATION ON HOW TO ASSEMBLY YOUR EMERGENCY BINDER, PLEASE CONTACT ANY OF THE FAMILY READINESS SUPPORT ASSISTANTS FOR YOUR AREA OR MYSELF.

GETTING READY

FAMILY READINESS LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Changes Coming

for TRICARE Dental

On May 1, 2012 the TRICARE Dental Program coverage will change from United Concordia to MetLife. This means that over 2 million Selected Reserve and Individual Ready Reserve members, Family members, and survivors may soon see some significant changes to their dental coverage. According to TRICARE, beneficiaries can expect to see the enhanced dental coverage at a lower premium share under the new contract.

NOTE: The change to MetLife is for Family members, members of the Selected Reserve and Individual Ready Reserve, and survivors only. The Active Duty Dental Program will continue to be administered by United Concordia. The TRICARE Retiree Dental Program coverage will remain under Delta Dental.

<http://www.military.com/military-report/changes-coming-for-tricare-dental?>

UPCOMING SCHEDULES:

**** **Central Region Trustmark Park, Pearl, MS**
Deadline registration: 7/29/12

******Southern Region I-20 and below**
Grand Hotel, Natchez, MS
Deadline registration: 8/10/12

******North Region/Central Region****** **May attend Pearl, MS Training only.**

**** **Central/Southern Region****** **May attend Pearl or Natchez, MS Training only.**
This is due to our limited budget for ITO's.

RAPIDS Sites in MS

Pike County - McComb NG Armory

Lee County - Tupelo NG Armory

Grenada County - Camp McCain

Hattiesburg - Camp Shelby

Jackson - JFHQ & Raymond Rd Armory

HAVE A GREAT JULY 4TH



I pledge Allegiance to the flag
of the United States of America
and to the Republic for which it
stands, one nation under God,
Indivisible, with Liberty and Jus-
tice for all.



